

Final Delta Plan

Summary: This report provides a high level summary of the comments received on the Final Draft Delta Plan and any staff proposed revisions to the Final Draft Delta Plan in response to comments. At the March meeting staff is requesting final direction from the Council to make revisions to the Final Draft Delta Plan and prepare a “redline” version of the Final Delta Plan for consideration for adoption by the Council at its May meeting.

Background

The Final Draft Delta Plan was released on November 30, 2012. Though there was no formal public comment period for the Final Draft Delta Plan, written comments were received from various stakeholders through January 14, 2013. At the Council’s request, an additional public hearing was held on January 11, 2013 where the Council heard from stakeholders regarding their major concerns and suggestions for developing the Final Delta Plan. In all, 92 public meetings have been held during the two year development of the Delta Plan.

This report summarizes the categories of comments received on the Final Draft Delta Plan (to be distinguished from comments on the EIR and Rulemaking Package). In its review, staff identified that most comments were already being addressed through the EIR and Rulemaking processes, described earlier during the Council’s meeting. Of the remaining comments, most were reiterations of those received on prior drafts of the Delta Plan which the Council had previously considered and on which the Council had already provided staff direction.

In all there were four main categories of comments on the November 30, 2012 Delta Plan:

- Comments on the BDCP and its relationship to the Delta Plan (many of these comments are being addressed through the EIR and Rulemaking Package processes)
- Comments on the Plan’s recommendations
- Editorial comments and factual corrections
- A few comments advocating new or additional policies or recommendations

Proposed staff revisions are, in general, nonsubstantive and are listed in the “Consent Checklist” (Attachment 1). This list includes minor editorial, grammatical, technical or factual revisions. Not included in the attachment of staff proposed revisions are the conforming revisions in the Delta Plan that may be necessary to carry out the Council’s direction on the rulemaking package. Revisions to the plan’s policies and supporting

narrative that correspond to these changes in the regulations will comprise the majority of revisions to the Final Draft Delta Plan.

Executive Summary

Based on previous Council direction on the Executive Summary, staff is preparing a revised Executive Summary. The revised version is intended to also serve as a “stand alone” outreach document for the Delta Plan that will appeal to a lay audience. The revised version will provide background on the Delta, capture Delta Plan objectives and goals, and summarize the Plan’s policies and recommendations. The revised summary will be available for review at the Council’s April meeting.

Next Steps for Delta Plan

March Meeting: Staff seeks Council direction to make the following changes in the Final Delta Plan:

- Minor changes that appear on the Consent Checklist (Attachment 1)
- Changes to Delta Plan policies and supporting narrative that conform to Council-approved changes in the proposed regulations
- Any additional conforming changes to the Delta Plan for purposes of clarity and harmonization that staff deem necessary, consistent with overall Council direction

April Meeting: Staff will bring revised Executive Summary for Council consideration

May Meeting: Staff will present a “redline” version for consideration for adoption by the Council

Staff Recommendation

Staff recommends that, after the Council receives the staff’s report on this matter, the Council open the public hearing on it, accept any public testimony, and after Council deliberation, direct the staff to make the changes it has approved in the Delta Plan.

List of Attachments

Attachment 1: Consent Checklist

Contact

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